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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

of

The Commission on
the Bicentennial of the
United States Constitution

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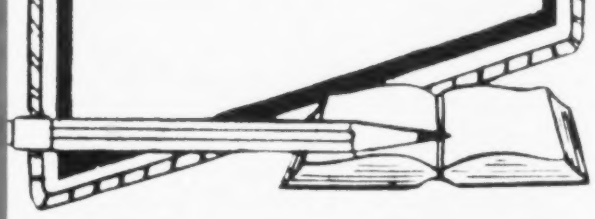

For more information about the programs included in this brochure, write to the Commission's Education Division, or call (202) 653-5110.

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National Historical Pictorial Map Contest

Enhance your students' understanding of geography and history by registering in the National Historical-Pictorial Map Contest. Students are asked to depict, on outline maps, key events significant to the development of early American history from 1607 to 1803. Competitions are held at upper elementary, middle and high school levels within each congressional district with winning entries advancing to state and national competitions. All entries receive certificates of Recognition. Winning schools at congressional district, state and national levels receive cash awards for the purchase of educational materials. National winners receive a free trip to Washington, D.C., for a special awards ceremony.

The contest is administered jointly by the Bicentennial Commission and the Center for Civic Education with the assistance of the Center's nationwide network of state and congressional district coordinators. Upon registration, teachers will be sent outline maps and supporting materials for the program. Application forms and requests for information about the contest should be addressed to: Center for Civic Education, 5146 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, CA, 91302, (818) 340-9320. Registration forms must be postmarked by November 17, 1989.

Gaining Recognition as A Bicentennial School

This Bicentennial School Recognition Program encourages schools throughout the country to further the study of the United States Constitution, the development of our representative government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. This program is designed to encourage ongoing educational activities and events throughout the school year, from Constitution Week in September through Flag Day in June. To participate in the Bicentennial School Recognition Program, schools are urged to form a representative committee composed of teachers, students, administrators, parents and community representatives to plan and implement appropriate commemorative and educational activities related to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. A Certificate of Recognition will be issued to Bicentennial Schools along with authorization to use the Commission's official logo.

Education Kit on the Presidency
and
Skills Handbooks on Congress and the Judiciary

The Commission has sponsored the development and distribution of special sets of educational materials on the three branches of government timed to coincide with the commemoration of their respective bicentennials. Scholastic, Inc. is producing and distributing these materials in two editions, elementary (grades 3-6) and junior / senior high (grades 7-12), to 143,00 teachers nationwide. The materials include background information and learning activities appropriate to the various grade levels. A video documentary on the founding of our national government has been developed as a supplement to the kit and handbooks, a limited supply of which will be available through the Commission in Fall 1989.

National Bicentennial Competition on the Constitution and Bill of Rights

We the People Congress and the Constitution

These two programs are part of an extensive educational program to educate young people about the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. The program's curricula are designed for a wide range of achievement levels and complement the regular school curriculum. Based on a six-week course of instruction on the basic principles and history of our Constitution, the program is designed to foster civic competence and civic responsibility. Curricular materials are available for upper elementary, middle and high school levels.

Optional competitive and non-competitive programs are available as culminating activities for the program. In the competitive option, classes participate in simulated congressional hearings before panels of judges. Competitions are held at the congressional district, state and national levels. In the non-competitive option, "We the People... Congress and the Constitution," entire classes, working cooperatively, prepare and present statements and answer questions on constitutional topics before a panel of community representatives acting as congressional committee members. These programs are administered nationwide through the 435 congressional districts and five trust territories.

DAR Constitution Week Essay Contest

The Commission in cosponsorship with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is holding a 1989-90 Constitution Week essay contest for high school juniors and seniors. The topic is: "Why are independent judges important in the preservation of our Constitutional system of government?" Winners and their teachers will be honored at a special event in Washington, D.C., as guests of the Bicentennial Commission. For information, contact your local DAR chapter. The deadline for entering is January 15, 1990.

National Repository for Teaching Materials

The Commission is funding a national repository for teacher-generated lessons and instructional materials on the Constitution, established by the Center for Research and Development in Law-Related Education (CRADLE) at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. CRADLE has the expertise and contacts to compile a resource of materials being developed at local, state and national levels throughout the country. Sharing Lessons in Citizenship Education (SLICE) will collect and review elementary- and secondary-level lessons and curricula. Included in this collection will be the curricula developed through the Commission's Discretionary Grant Program. Selected plans will be cataloged and made available to teachers doing research or wanting lesson plans on specific aspects of the Constitution or to those simply wishing to use new materials in the classroom. This project is now in the developmental stages. The first catalog should be available by the 1989-90 school year.

Constitution Week: Celebrate Citizenship in September

Each year the President traditionally proclaims September 17-23 as Constitution Week, and September 17th as Citizenship Day, a special occasion for the nation to focus attention on the Constitution and citizenship.

To encourage and support school participation in this annual celebration, the Commission designed and makes available upon request an educational poster, graphically representing "We the People" through the faces of children. The back of the poster features teaching suggestions on the Constitution and citizenship appropriate for elementary, middle and high school levels. Also available is a forty-page booklet, *Constitution Week, an American Legacy*, with ideas and suggestions for planning and implementing Constitution Week activities.

The opening of the school year is an opportune time for schools to join in the national salute to the Constitution, its history and principles, and at the same time impart to our youth an understanding of our freedoms, rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Adult and Continuing Education

In a major effort to reach the various adult constituencies, the Commission is funding the development of specially designed and easily read adult education materials on the Constitution. Consisting of four discussion-based modules on aspects of the Constitution, a Discussion Leader's Guide and Handbook, a Supplementary Guide for Tutors of the Functionally Illiterate and an introductory video, these materials will provide a better understanding of the history and principles of the Constitution as well as its implications for civic responsibility today. The materials will be developed with the advice of Constitutional scholars and experts in the field of civic education, adult learning, English as a Second Language and community-based education programs. Camera-ready copies of the materials will be available in the fall of 1989. The Commission is also promoting in civic organizations and federal agencies noontime and evening lecture and discussion programs on the Constitution through the Speakers Bureau.

Bicentennial Campus Program

All post-secondary institutions, including vocational and technical institutes, are eligible for the Bicentennial Campus program. To participate, an institution must establish a Bicentennial Committee broadly representative of the campus community, sponsor Bicentennial activities through 1991 and be approved in some cases by its state Bicentennial Commissions. Since the program began in July 1987, over 380 colleges and universities in 45 states and the District of Columbia have been designated Bicentennial Campuses. Among the wide range of activities sponsored on campus are seminars, conferences, film series, lecture series, speakers bureaus and essay contests. Significantly, many colleges have seized the Bicentennial as an opportunity to reach out into the local communities, working with local governments and schools to develop public Constitutional awareness programs.

College-Community Forums

The College-Community Forums program is designed to engage college faculty, community leaders and citizens in public discussion of constitutional issues and provide them with a better understanding of the history and principles of the United States Constitution. Local forums have been organized by colleges and universities, acting where possible in consortium and in collaboration with other local institutions. Forum programs take place on college campuses, in town libraries, civic centers or other public places and are supported in part by Commission funding. Subjects focus on the three branches of government and the Amendments. Participants are supplied booklets discussing the thematic topics with background information to provide a focus for discussion. The Commission also provides a handbook offering suggestions for the arrangements at such events. The central event, in most cases, is a public forum in which a small panel of community leaders and college faculty leads a discussion before and with a community audience; various other events may be planned around this. Deadline for application is September 15, 1989.

Discretionary Grant Program

The Bicentennial Educational Grant Program is designed to support "the development of instructional materials and programs on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights which are designed for use by elementary or secondary school students." The Commission has awarded almost $6 million in support of 136 projects throughout the country since the Grant Program began in 1987. Funded activities range from seminars to three-day conferences and from month-long in-depth training to one-day in-service projects. Curriculum development, including the innovative use of audiovisual materials and computer software, is part of many of these projects. The program seeks to train teachers and provide them with the materials and methods to transfer their knowledge successfully to the classroom. In coming years, this network of trained teachers will serve as a basis for more diverse and innovative teaching programs. The Commission will have two rounds of competition in FY 1990. Round One will have a deadline of November 13, 1989; Round Two applications will be accepted beginning April 15, 1990 and no later than May 21, 1990. Programs designed for non-mainstream groups such as those for whom English is a second language, as well as programs exploring the relationship of specific ethnic groups to the Constitution and Bill of Rights, are encouraged. Applications seeking to replicate exemplary projects in civic education also are encouraged.

Educational Services

A number of services are available to the educational community. The Speakers Bureau is a referral service which has at its disposal over 500 names of speakers nationwide with expertise on a wide range of topics. The Bureau also serves as a resource for bibliographies, speeches, quotations and articles on Constitution-related subjects. The Project Registry is a quarterly update of Constitution-related events, projects and resources. Individuals may receive this and other developing program information by contacting the Commission.